



CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

EVERY TUESDAY

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

PRICE THREEPENCE

 September 28,
1946
No 1436

ROUNDING UP THE RHINOS

200 Zulus in Search of Wandering Giants

SOUTH AFRICANS were startled not long ago by the news that 25 white rhinoceroses had escaped from the Umfolosi Reserve. These few specimens of the white rhino are the only survivors of their kind in the world and their loss to naturalists the world over would be a very great one indeed.

It was announced that these rare animals had invaded farming territory in north-eastern Natal and were doing immense damage to agricultural lands.

So it was decided to drive the wanderers "back home." Two hundred Zulus, firing blank cartridges, and making in addition all the noise they could, flung a cordon round the narrow bit of six-mile territory into

which the great animals had strayed.

At first the drive was not successful; the tall grass helped the rhinos to elude their hunters. When the next attempt was made, however, sections of grass country were burnt, which made it easy for the Zulus to see what they were about. All went well until the cordon reached the River Umfolosi.

Arriving at a drift, the rhinos suddenly decided they had gone far enough. They turned on the hunters, and, although blanks were fired in their faces, they came straight on. And, as Captain Potter, who was in charge of the round-up, reported, "when a harassed five-ton giant bears down on you, you've got to get out of the way." Next day, however, the drive was completely successful.

The Aborigines declare that Arkaroo, a big black snake, will never allow anyone to learn the secrets of the Gammon Ranges. Aborigines can never be persuaded to venture near them.

Periodically, graziers in the vicinity hear great rumbling noises and explosions coming from the centre of the ranges. The origin of the noises has never been explained. The Aborigines have their own theory, however. They say the noises come from Arkaroo complaining and turning over in anger. He is supposed to make people fall off ledges by sending jets of sulphur into their faces.

SAFETY SAM SHOWS THE WAY



A London policeman, P.C. Rodwell, plays the part of Safety Sam, a walking traffic sign, at a Dagenham school, and demonstrates to the boys and girls the safe way to cross a street.

Harnessing China's Life-Line MIGHTY DAM FOR THE YANGTSE

CAN the mighty Yangtse River, China's hope and sorrow, be harnessed to provide China's millions with food and health?

That is the vast problem which Chinese and American engineers are now considering as part of China's post-war reconstruction plan. Their ideas for this mighty plan have been stimulated by the successful Tennessee Valley scheme in the United States.

From time immemorial the Yangtse has poured its turbulent waters down through the heart of China, peacefully providing water for the ricefields, but often violently breaking through the dykes and causing death and destruction over areas ten times the size of England.

Peasant Farmers

Fourteen provinces, with a population of some 350 millions, are contained in the Yangtse Valley proposals. Most of the people are peasant farmers with modest smallholdings worked by hand and with the help of the water buffalo.

The Yangtse Valley people are among the poorest of the world's peoples, and they are subject to diseases which in the Chinese army carried off more troops than the Japanese ever killed.

Most of the ills of the great valley are due to the uncontrolled flow of the mighty river. If, by a series of enormous dams, the Yangtse could be controlled millions of fresh acres would be brought under cultivation to provide rice for China and the East, millions of kilowatts of electricity could be made from the water-power, and the now dangerous river could become navigable through a series of locks up to Chungking.

Security For Millions

While the first ambitious schemes of the American engineers cannot be fully carried out, it is proposed to begin by controlling the river by constructing a huge dam in the Yangtse Gorges near Ichang. For 350 miles above Ichang the river's channel passes through ravines and gorges, and Ichang itself, below the gorges, has long been subject to disastrous floods. The new dam will do much to make the river become a friend instead of an enemy of the people. Eventually drought and flood will be abolished, and the millions of Chinese in the great valley will be able to depend on a regular livelihood and greater security than they have ever had.

Harnessing China's life-line may become one of the most spectacular achievements in China's history. It will be a further instance of how the modern West and the ancient East can work together for good.

A RACE AGAINST TIME



In the few precious hours of fine weather farmers have been making a great effort to save what they can of their crops. Our picture of a harvest wagon being loaded is from Bishop's Cleeve in Gloucestershire.

VOICE OR NO VOICE?

RESULTS have been published of attempts to make recordings of the voice of the "mute" swan in the famous swannery at Abbotsbury in Dorsetshire. Various sounds made by the birds were caught, including a clear trumpeting by one of the male birds.

It seems extraordinary that these beautiful birds are generally regarded as being incapable of more than a hiss or grunts, for naturalists know that wild swans of the so-called "mute" species utter loud trumpet-like notes during the nesting season. Yet everyone else speaks of the bird as voiceless.

It is often stated with confidence, too, that the giraffe, whether captive or free, has no voice. In proof of this it is

recalled that when two of these animals perished during a fire in their stables at the Zoo, the poor creatures uttered no sound, which they must have done, it is urged, had they not been voiceless.

But the official records of the Zoo prove that the giraffe is not without a voice. A report in the Society's Proceedings, concerning the birth of a giraffe there last century, the first ever known to be born in Europe, states that the young animal "once or twice uttered a low, gentle grunt or bleat, something between that of a fawn and a calf." That proved once for all that the giraffe has a voice, little as it may use it. Yet all the books declare it to be as dumb as the so-called mute swan is supposed to be.

Hot Water Laid On

HOT water laid on night and day has made Quilpie in West Queensland famous though it is only 30 years old.

Quilpie was the railroad for the despatch of wool to Brisbane, and suffered like other areas in Australia from droughts more than from floods. But now it fears neither because a deep artesian well was sunk, from which comes up 30 million gallons a day of water at 178 degrees Fahrenheit—not quite on the boil but hot enough for Quilpie's townspeople who have it laid on from the main in every house.

Moreover, if there is a drought, the sheep farmers come from far and near for this life-giving stream, which has a faint taste of sulphur but is no more unpleasant than that of our chlorinated water.

The man who made Quilpie was a bird lover and so he named its streets after Queensland birds—Quilpie itself is the native name of the "night curlew of the boding cry"; Brologa Street is that of the stately dancing crane; Bullen-bullen, the whistling parrot; and Jabiru, the great swamp bird.

WHAT IS TO HAPPEN TO GERMANY?

ALTHOUGH the Paris Conference of twenty-one Allied nations is still busy making peace with the five ex-enemy nations—Italy, Hungary, Bulgaria, Rumania, and Finland—the question of Germany is already engaging the attention of world statesmen.

The making of Peace with Germany will not be discussed by the Big Four Foreign Ministers until November of this year when, we all hope, the peace with the lesser enemies will have been concluded. But the problem of Germany exists and is urgent. A few weeks ago the CN explained how ruinous to Germany, and to Europe as a whole, was the division of Germany into four separate zones. Since then the British and American Governments have agreed to open the frontiers between their zones and are actually permitting freer exchange of food and factory-made goods.

Even more serious than absence of trade among all zones has been the failure of Allied Governments to declare their future intentions regarding Germany. However, in his speech at Stuttgart earlier this month,

Mr James Byrnes, US Secretary of State, threw a new light on the German question. He made clear a good number of points about which we in this country, and people on the Continent, including the Germans, were not at all sure. Mr Byrnes said that America wished to see Germany free from militarism and would support therefore the policy of disarming Germany.

Disarming Germany means, of course, control of German industry. And here Mr Byrnes made another point which was of historic importance. He stated that his country would not shirk its duty. "As long as an occupation force is required in Germany the Army of the United States will be part of that occupation force."

However, Mr Byrnes made it quite clear that America does not wish to run Germany on behalf of the Germans. She wants to see a democratic German Government established that would control all Germany provided it obeyed the principles of peace, good neighbourliness, and humanity. On the other hand the new peaceful and democratic Germany should be really free and independent.

Mr Byrnes also stressed that the millions of Germans should not be forced to live in doubt as to their fate. In the view of the American Government the Allies without delay should make clear to the German people the essential terms of the peace settlement which they expect the German people to accept and observe.

It is obvious that the statement by the US Secretary of State is the most important pronouncement on Allied policy since the Potsdam Conference. As such it opens the great debate on the fate of Germany which will now inevitably grow in volume as the November Conference of the Foreign Ministers of Britain, France, USA, and Russia draws nearer.

The Fateful Battle

Six years ago this week Britain, though she did not realise it at the time, was beginning to emerge triumphant from one of the greatest ordeals of her history—the Battle of Britain. How dangerous was our position in this the world's first full scale air battle has now been revealed by the publication of the dispatch written after the battle by Lord Dowding, who was Commander-in-Chief of Fighter Command in those fateful days.

By the end of September 1940 it began to be clear that the Germans could no longer keep up huge attacks like that of September 15, when they lost 185 aircraft in one day. The fearful struggle was drawing gradually to its close, but the R.A.F.'s resources, as Lord Dowding now reveals, were terribly strained. There was a grim shortage of trained pilots to take the places of those who had sacrificed themselves for their country.

Britain was saved by the indomitable courage of the fighter pilots and the skill of their leaders. It was these qualities in our warriors of the air that won the fateful Battle of Britain.

MARSHLAND INTO FARMLAND

ANOTHER little bit of derelict land has been added to England's fertile acres. Three years ago, during the darkest days of the war, a little body of men set to work to reclaim a 3000-acre stretch of marshland at Frodsham, in Cheshire; and they have succeeded.

The transformation of what was a waterlogged marsh, flooded throughout the winter and marked on old Ordnance maps as "unpassable," into a rich, fertile land is an achievement of which the Cheshire War Agricultural Committee can justly be proud.

New Year's Day in September

If someone were to say to us on September 26, "Happy New Year to you" we should blink and wonder what the joke was—or take an anxious glance at calendar or newspaper to see whether we had been asleep for three months and more. But such a greeting this week is quite correct from one Jew to another, for September 26 is the Jewish New Year's Day. And the Jewish year is not 1946 but A.M. 5707. A.M. means Anno Mundi, the Year of Creation.

A Great Scientist

ONE of Britain's greatest physicists, Sir James Jeans, O.M., died recently at the age of 69. The world owes a great deal of its present-day knowledge of the Universe to him, for he made deep mathematical research into the problems of space.

Although his theories are far from easy for the ordinary person to grasp, explained as they must be on a basis of higher mathematics, yet his popular scientific books, such as *The Mysterious Universe*, are very widely read.

WORLD NEWS REEL

TURKISH DELIGHT. Bread rationing in Turkey has ended.

The US plan to explode an atomic bomb in deep water has been postponed indefinitely owing to the information obtained from the two tests at Bikini.

German prisoners-of-war in this country are going back to Germany at the rate of 15,000 a month.

METEORIC. In a clipped-wing Gloster Meteor Mark IV jet plane Squadron Leader Digby Cotes-Freedy has flown from Paris to Geneva at an average speed of 510 m.p.h.

The sale of alcoholic liquor is to be prohibited in about one-third of the province of Madras from October 1.

A trade agreement has been signed between Britain and the Argentine. The two countries have agreed about Argentina's funds in Britain, the position of British-owned railways in the Argentine, and the buying of Argentine meat by Britain.

SOVIET STAMPS. Eight new postage stamps are to be issued by Russia showing Moscow landmarks, including the Red Square, the Kremlin, and the Lenin Museum.

Sir Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin, who has been presiding over the Inter-American Congress at Rio de Janeiro, has been made a Grand Officer of the Brazilian Order of the Southern Cross.

A British Exhibition of pictures from the Tate Gallery, held in Vienna, was visited by over 2000 people in the first four days.

THE WORLD'S MONEY. On September 27 Mr Hugh Dalton, Chancellor of the Exchequer, is to attend at Washington a meeting of the Boards of Governors of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

In the recent Bulgarian election 92.27 per cent of the votes were in favour of Bulgaria being a Republic.

HOME NEWS REEL

SEA OF TEA. The YMCA Forces' Canteen at Waterloo Station, London, held its seventh birthday party recently. The canteen has served 25,000,000 cups of tea.

An appeal made by the Vicar of Christ Church, Gipsy Hill, London, for clothing coupons to provide his choirboys with collars and bowties produced 52 coupons in three days.

Many of the 40 Austrian nurses who have come to London hospitals for training nursed British prisoners-of-war in enemy hospitals during the war.

SERVICE. At Holy Trinity, Chester, Mr Thomas Pate, aged 84, has begun his 60th year as organist.

A cormorant that had been blown inland to Ibstock in Leicestershire was captured, fed on fish, and sent back to the sea in a crate to be released.

Owing to the lack of a cleaner at Yorkley School, Forest of Dean, pupils have stayed to clean the school after lessons were finished.

FRIENDLY FOX. A young fox tamed by a lady at Gracedieu, Leicestershire, mixes sociably with chickens.

In the last 20 years Mrs Eaby of Bridlington, 80 years old, has collected 80,000 eggs from outlying farms for a local hospital.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

OWLS IN CONFERENCE. More than a hundred Brown Owls have been in conference at St Katharine's College, Tottenham. These leaders of the junior branch of the Guides came from all parts of Britain and some came from Greece and Denmark.

During a sculling race on the River Vaal at Vereeniging a 14-stone member of the crew collapsed and fell overboard. Private Leonard Bradshaw of the 7th Johannesburg Company, Boys Brigade, who was the boat's coxswain, dived overboard and supported him until help arrived. Leonard receives the B.B. Cross for Heroism.

A Guide training camp was held recently near Hamelin in the Weser Valley for Estonian, Latvian, and Lithuanian mem-

bers of the Guide Movement among Germany's displaced persons.

SCOUT COASTGUARDS. Scouts of the 1st Ickenham (Middlesex) Troop in camp near Hastings did day and night duty at Fairlight Coastguard Station during a three-day period of heavy gales.

Senior Scout Douglas Howell of the 1st Grangetown Group has been awarded the Scout Gilt Cross for rescuing a boy from drowning in the Blue Sea Reservoir at Middlesbrough.

The Captain Cook, which has been a pilot ship for 46 years, has been commissioned by the Governor of New South Wales, Lieutenant-General Northcott, as a harbour training-ship for Sea Scouts.

Christian Example

THE George Cross has been posthumously awarded to Major Hugh Paul Seagrim of the Indian Army for his supreme self-sacrifice in Burma during the war. He was leading a small party in Japanese territory and the enemy brutally tortured many people to try to wring from them the secret of his whereabouts. But the Karen people went on helping and sheltering him.

Then the Japanese declared they would stop torturing people if he would give himself up. He at once surrendered to save his friends. With others of his party he was sentenced to death. He pleaded that only he should be executed as the others had acted under his orders. Throughout his imprisonment, the citation says, he comforted his men by his Christian example.

Major Seagrim had a brother who was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross, Lieut-Colonel Derek Anthony Seagrim.

OLD VIC AND YOUNG VIC

THE Old Vic is to rise again on its ruined site in the Waterloo Road, London. The Arts Council are supporting a plan for an experimental theatre there, also a theatre school, and a theatre for children to be known as The Young Vic.

The blitzed Old Vic Theatre is to be restored, but in such a way that the stage and the auditorium will permit of the production of a play of any period in its appropriate setting.

The Old Vic school will open on January 16, 1947, and will provide courses in acting, production, and design. Students from all over the British Isles will be eligible, and it is hoped that some scholarships will be founded.

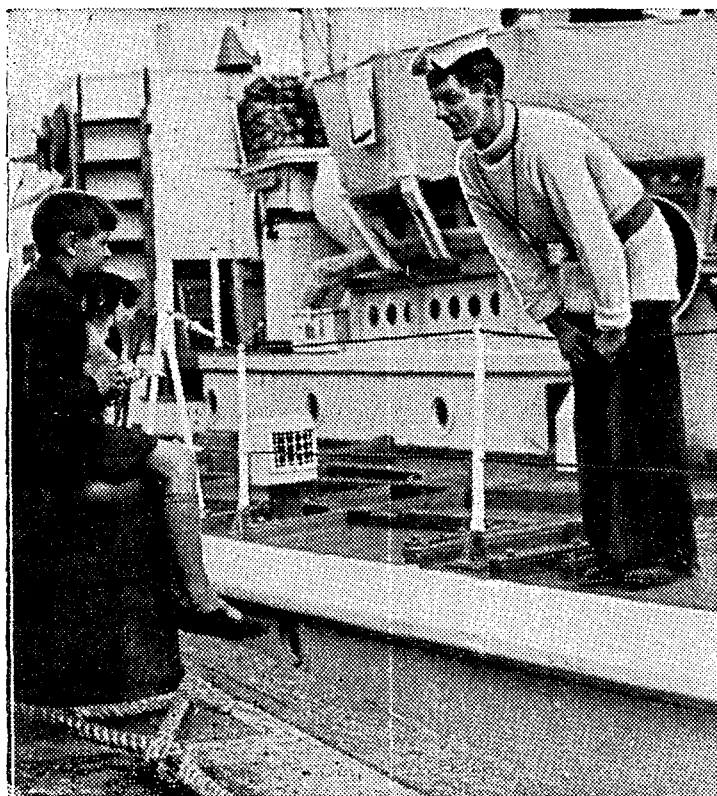
The theatre for children will be touring the provinces for the greater part of the year, so that as many children as possible can see the Young Vic productions.

Your Own CN

THE school year just beginning has brought many changes. Most boys and girls have advanced to higher classes or forms. Another change will be more C.N.s available for reading, both in school and at home. An increased supply of newsprint will enable more copies to be printed, beginning with next week's issue, dated October 5, 1946.

BUT, although it will be easier to obtain a copy for yourself instead of having to share with others and wait your turn, the only way of making sure of receiving the CN each week is by giving your newsagent an order to reserve your copy. Paper is still strictly rationed, and newsagents will not order more copies than they are sure of selling.

An order given to your newsagent now will help him to obtain increased supplies.



The Navy Comes to Town

Some of the Navy's "little ships" have been sailing up inland waters in the course of a recruiting campaign on the East Coast. The boy who took his dog to the quay is not old enough to enlist, but he enjoyed a chat with one of the crew of a motor torpedo-boat.

30 MPH—£20

THE use of private cars in Bermuda was forbidden until early this year, and now the law limiting their speed outside built-up areas to 20 mph is very strictly applied. Not long ago the US Consul-General's chauffeur was driving his employer's car—with the Consul-General in it—at 30 mph, or 10 mph over the limit. The magistrates at Hamilton, the chief town, fined the chauffeur £20.

PLASTIC CHURCH WINDOWS

ONE of the newest uses of plastics is in the making of church windows, and it is possible that it may replace the stained glass that has decorated our churches and cathedrals for centuries past.

Religious figures are being embossed on plastic materials, but whether the colours will stand the wear of centuries like those of the medieval stained-glass artists remains to be seen. Certain it is that coloured plastic glass has come to stay.

The Children's Own Theatre

THAT splendid organisation for enabling schoolboys and girls to see good plays, The Children's Theatre, are this week at Toynbee Hall in London presenting Tobias and the Angel, the play by James Bridie based on an exciting story in the Apocrypha. The LCC Education Authority is arranging for schoolchildren to attend the performances without payment.

The actors and actresses in The Children's Theatre, under Glyndebourne management, are grown-ups, and they made a strong appeal to young audiences in their first production, Dickens's Great Expectations. Letters of appreciation from boys and girls

Telling the Dominions

THIS autumn our kinsmen in Australia and New Zealand will be visiting an exhibition, sent out by the British Council, of various old rural crafts which are still practised in Britain. They are seeing fine examples of the traditional skill of our blacksmiths, woodworkers, basket-makers, and harness-makers, and the work of our craftsmen and women in pottery, straw-plaiting, knitting, quilting, patchwork, and net-making.

They are seeing how English craftsmen make cricket bats and balls—a seasonable exhibit in Australia now—how Scots make the textiles for which their country is famous, how Welshmen make coracles, and how Ulstermen make turf spades. There are also three models of different types of farm wagons and books on the various crafts.

Photographs show the craftsmen at work, but in case any of our Dominion cousins should gain the mistaken impression that our farmers are still dependent on these old crafts, there are also photographs of our modern farming machinery

who had seen the play poured into The Children's Theatre office, many of them suggesting other books for stage production.

Tobias and the Angel is a fascinating play with plenty of adventure and humour in it—one of the performers is a well-behaved little dog. After playing at Toynbee Hall for two weeks from September 23, The Children's Theatre will take Tobias to Camberwell Palace for two weeks, then to the Granville Theatre, Walham Green, for two weeks, after which the play will tour the provinces. Everywhere it will be seen by young audiences under arrangements by local education authorities.

BOY BOBBIES

So popular are the policemen of Bradford among the boys of the city that 200 are on the waiting-list for membership of the City Police Boys' Club, which, formed just over a year ago, has proved a great success and is now over 200 strong.

The policemen first aim to keep boys off the streets, teach them correct behaviour, and thus reduce juvenile crime. Their ultimate aim is to offer any of the youths who may feel so inclined a chance of joining the police force.

These "boy bobbies" will become known as Police Cadets and will be employed on messenger work, telephone duties, and so on.

BOOKS ON WHEELS

LEIGH, Lancashire, has a new library—on wheels. The Corporation has bought and converted a 32-seater single-decker bus into a mobile library with 2000 books on its shelves. It will tour the streets of each district of the town on different days.

Cycling Round Australia

SEEING Australia cheaply is the object of two Melbourne girls, who have set off to cycle round the country.

With two good bicycles and a little pocket money, Shirley Duncan, 21, and Wendy Law, 19-year-old redhead, plan to reach Darwin in the far north, and when they have completed their Australian tour they intend to see the rest of the world in the same way.

They are not averse to a little "hitch-hiking," and they accept odd jobs in the different country centres they visit to help them on their way.

BIG BROTHER

TONY GARNER, aged 21, who lives at Birchington on the Kent coast, was looking out to sea through a telescope and suddenly saw a capsized canoe with two little boys clinging to it.

The sea was rough but that did not deter Mr Garner for a moment. Putting down the telescope, he ran for the shore and dashed into the waves. Then he struck out towards the shipwrecked lads.

When he reached them he was astonished to find they were his own young brothers, one aged 10 and the other 13! Both boys were exhausted and could not have held on to the canoe much longer. But big brother Tony successfully brought both of them to the shore.

A TALE OF A RING

FARMER TOM SLACK, of Upper Hulme, Staffordshire, worked on a farm as a boy nigh on 50 years ago, and while ploughing lost a ring his mother had given him.

He forgot all about it, went away, joined the Army, fought in the Boer War, went to Canada, came back and fought in the First World War, and then returned to this country and took over the farm where he had worked as a lad.

Recently, while mowing, he saw something shining in the grass and, getting down from his machine, picked up the lost ring!

Rain, Rain, Go Away!

DAY after day of heavy rainfalls, interfering with harvests and holidays alike—that has been the sorry tale for a long while.

In 1946 we have had more rainy days than for many years past, but none so far to equal a certain wet day in 1912 when more than eight inches of rain fell near Norwich; and one inch of rain means something like 72,320 tons of water on a square mile.

Yet, as in so many other things, we must look for com-

parisons. There is an area about a hundred miles from Calcutta which is deluged with more than 400 inches of rain a year and sometimes 40 inches in one day. On the other hand, there are deserts, like the Sahara, where rain is a very rare visitor.

What happens to all the rain? About a third of it sinks into the earth, to nourish the soil and replenish the wells and springs; another third swells our rivers; and the remainder goes into the atmosphere again as water vapour.

1000 MPH

SOME details have lately been disclosed of an aircraft which might have been the first to fly faster than sound.

Three years ago the Air Ministry instructed the Miles Aircraft firm of Reading to design and build a jet-propelled plane which could fly at 1000 mph and reach an altitude of 36,000 feet in 90 seconds. The speed of sound at sea-level is 760 mph.

After much research a design was evolved for a machine resembling a bullet with small wings. The fuselage was 33 feet long, and 23 feet of it was occupied by the jet plant. The sharply-pointed nose was the pilot's cabin, and in an emergency it could be detached from the plane by firing an explosive charge, its fall being checked by a parachute until it reached an atmosphere level at which the pilot could safely jump with his own parachute.

When nine-tenths of the work on this plane had been completed the contract was cancelled by the Air Ministry on grounds of economy.

The Vanished Lake

A LAKE in Queensland has mysteriously disappeared. It is Lake Nooga, about 300 miles north of Brisbane, which until recently was an expanse of water 400 acres in area. Then all the water vanished, and now all that is left in the bed of the lake is a strip of mud about 100 yards long and 20 yards wide.

One explanation of Nooga's drying up is that rumblings were heard near the lake some time ago and these may have been a subterranean disturbance which opened a fissure in the earth of the lake's bed through which the water drained away.

SPEEDY MIDGET

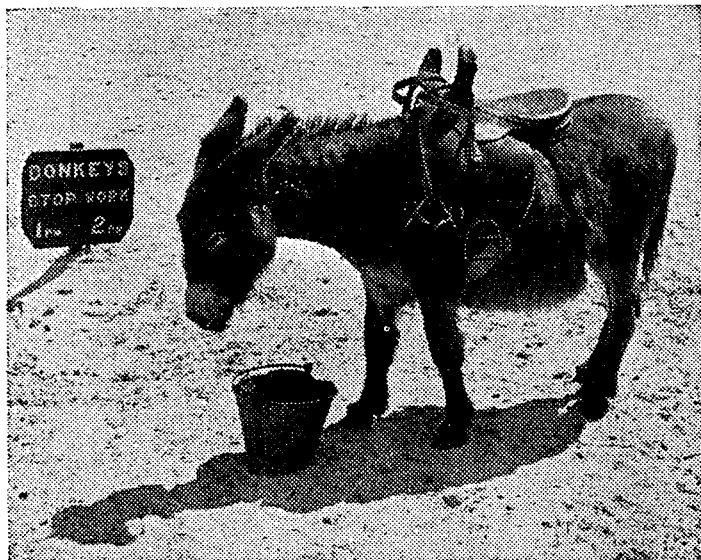
A TINY home-made car not much bigger than a child's pedal car won in the class for racing cars of 850 c.c. in the recent speed trials organised by the Brighton and Hove Motor Club. The trials were held on the Madeira Drive which runs along part of Brighton's sea front.

The miniature racer's speed was 62.48 mph. It was driven by Mr John Cooper, and is called a Cooper Special.



The Space Ship

In the Britain Can Make It Exhibition which opens this week at the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, is this striking model of a space ship, a sphere designed to soar into the realms of outer space.



It's An Ill Wind...

Neddy is due for his winter holiday now, but the inclement summer has meant a slack season for him. However, his lunch turns up as usual, and he enjoys a rare spell of sunshine during the midday break.

A MODERN DOMESDAY BOOK

NEARLY nine centuries ago William the Conqueror ordered a survey of all England's land, and the results were recorded in what is known as the Domesday Book. The Conqueror's object in ordering this survey was to compile a record of the income in rents and taxes to which he was entitled. We have now a modern Domesday Book, which has been compiled for the worthier purpose of making the most of our farms.

The National Farm Survey of England and Wales, 1941-1943 (Stationery Office, 2s), issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, is the result of the work of our county agricultural executive committees, and has been compiled from reports of their officers who visited the farms in the course of their wartime duties.

Each field recorder was given a book of instructions to follow so that the survey should be uniform and as accurate as possible. Small farms of less than five acres, forming under one per cent of the total acreage, were excluded. The total number covered was over 290,000, and their area 24,212,000 acres.

Here are some of the interesting facts which this modern Domesday Book discloses:

About two out of every three farms were rented, and not owned, by the occupiers. The landlord and tenant system prevailed more in the north of England than the south. The average rent paid for each acre of farmland was 27 shillings a year.

Three-quarters of the farms had good access to public roads, but considerably fewer were well situated as regards railways.

Rather more than a half of the farmhouses were in satisfactory condition. A little more than a third of the farm buildings were good. Only a quarter of the farms had one or more farm cottages for their labourers.

Rather less than a half of the farms had a piped supply of water to the farmhouses, less still to the farm buildings. About one farm in every four suffered from a seasonal shortage of water.

A quarter of our soil is heavy, a little over a half medium, and less than a fifth light. Less than a half of the total farm land was good, a little more than a half fair, and about a twelfth was bad.

This survey covers a very wide field, and is invaluable as a basis for improvement of our farms.

Crusader Clarkson

THOMAS CLARKSON, the man who shares with Wilberforce and Granville Sharp the high distinction of suppressing the British slave trade, died on September 26, just 100 years ago.

It was while preparing an essay at Cambridge University on the question of making slaves of others against their will that Clarkson first became interested in the slave trade. The details which his research unearthed so horrified him that he could not sleep. He won the essay prize, and, setting out to visit Wilberforce in London, thenceforth dedicated his whole life to stamping out the evil traffic.

He and Wilberforce formed an ideal partnership. While the latter was arousing the House of Commons with his eloquent speeches Clarkson was travelling throughout the country conduct-

ing a vigorous crusade against the slave trade. With unconquerable energy he gathered a vast amount of information to support his case, which he published in an unceasing stream of pamphlets, essays, and reports. He helped to win over Pitt, Fox, and Burke to his cause, and even travelled to France during the French Revolution to enlist the sympathies of the revolutionary leaders, Necker, Mirabeau, and Lafayette.

In 1787 Wilberforce introduced a Bill into Parliament for the abolition of the African slave trade. Year after year the Bill was thrown out, but perseverance won in the end. On March 25, 1807, it finally passed the Commons and became law—an occasion celebrated in Wordsworth's sonnet, "Clarkson, it was an obstinate hill to climb."

September 28, 1946

The Guilds of London City

ELECTING London's Lord Mayor at Michaelmas each year is one of the functions of the ancient livery companies of the City of London. This year Michaelmas Day, September 29, falls on a Sunday, so the ceremony is to be on September 28.

We hear little today of these "worshipful companies" and their important part in the City's municipal government. Yet besides nominating and electing the Lord Mayor, who must himself be a liveryman of at least one of the companies, they elect the sheriffs, appoint the City Chamberlain and other corporation officials, and provide for all civic receptions and entertainments.

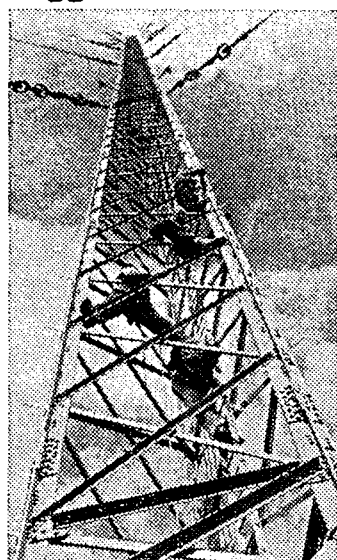
At one time they were almost the chief ruling power in the City, but when the Fishmongers' Company ventured to open the City gates for Wat Tyler and his rebels it proved too much, so Parliament intervened. The companies wield rather less power now, and that is perhaps why we hear less of them than did our forefathers.

The livery companies became so called from the granting of an early charter, which authorised each company to adopt its own distinctive dress or livery. There are 78 of them still in existence, and although they originated as guilds (or gilds) for the advancement of the various trades and crafts carried on in the City of London, few now exercise any control over those trades and crafts.

Among the few are the Goldsmiths' Company, whose hallmark on gold and silver articles is well known, the Fishmongers', the Brewers', and the Stationers' Companies. Others have lost trade control either because their respective trades are no longer carried on in the City or have become extinct.

The Great Fire of 1666 destroyed many of the companies' guild-halls, and of those afterwards rebuilt several succumbed in the recent bombing. They were costly and magnificent buildings, housing great wealth in gold and silver plate, and so on. Many of their treasures, happily, still survive.

Biggest BBC Mast



A new mast for the aerial of the Home Service is here seen being erected at Brookmans Park. It is 500 feet high, the tallest used by the B.B.C.

The Editor's Table

GESTURE OF GOOD WILL

BRITAIN has made a gesture to Italy which is at once friendly and constructive; and the spirit of it must give all men of good will new heart and hope for the future. A bill for nearly three thousand million pounds which might have been exacted from Italy for damage done to British property during the war has been delivered, but Italy will not be expected to pay it.

THIS colossal bill records the material damage that Italy inflicted on Britain during the years when our historic friendship was broken by the war. "It does not try to translate," said Glenvil Hall in discussing the bill at the Paris Conference, "into material form the loss of life, effort, and the suffering; but it calls to mind such names as Malta, Libya, and Matapan."

THIS gesture of the British Government, which all our countrymen will applaud, and several countries have already repeated, has been made in the belief that a lasting peace could not be built "save at some sacrifice of demands which, however justified, cannot be met in full." Mr Hall went on to say that this gesture of good will would show the Italian people that the British were not unmindful of the weight of the task of reconstruction which lay ahead of them.

This gesture is a token to the Italian people not only of Britain's friendship but of a constructive attitude towards the reconstruction of Italy and of Europe. If payments, reparations, and indemnities are to be exacted on a big scale, then many unhappy economic results will follow. If Europe is again to stand on her feet the victors must come to the assistance of the vanquished. The truly victorious nation is that nation which wins its victories not only by force of arms but by understanding and friendship after the fight is over.

BRITAIN is showing the way of constructive forgiveness, and her renunciation of rightful demands is a mark of true statesmanship. This gesture of good will provides a noble basis for the building of a lasting friendship between Britain and Italy and is a signal to all nations that the way of forgiveness in economic as well as moral affairs is the true way to heal the wounds of the past and provide new hope for all mankind.

*Without, the world is tired and old,
But, once within this enchanted door
The mists of time are backward rolled,
And creeds and ages are no more;
But all the human-hearted meet
In one communion vast and sweet.*

The Children

Child Labour

NOT all the children of the world are as well cared-for as those in Great Britain; the scandals of child labour of which Charles Dickens wrote still prevail in some countries. But the International Labour Office are tackling the problem.

At their conference at Montreal it has been proposed that children and young people under 18 shall not be employed unless they are found to be medically fit, with further medical examinations at least once a year until they are 18, or, in occupations involving high health risks, until 21.

Birds Have Few Accidents

IN a pigeon-borne message to the Nottingham Road Safety Exhibition, Lord Llewellyn said recently:

"May the bird that brings this message carry it to Nottingham without accident. It probably will. Birds, whether on business or pleasure flights, have far less accidents than human beings. Why should this be?"

"Why should human beings, who are capable of far deeper and much wider thought than any other living creatures, have many more accidents than they? The answer is a very simple one—it is because many people just do not think what they are doing, especially when they are out on the roads.

"So the message that this bird brings to you all from me as the President of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents is this:

"When on the roads, whether walking, cycling, or motoring, give thought for others and for your own safety."

AUTUMN BEAUTY

WHAT pensive beauty autumn shows,
Before she hears the sound
Of winter, rushing in to close
The emblematic round.

Wordsworth

Under the E



PETER PUCK
WANTS TO
KNOW

If the man who
threw his voice
caught his breath

ALL children should be taught drawing. In the hope that they may draw big salaries.

TRIM your lavender hedge back with shears quite hard, says a gardener. Soft ones won't cut.

A LADY at a dance had shoes ornamented with small electric bulbs. Light on her feet.

IT is safest to learn a business from the bottom, says a City magnate. Especially the steeplejack's.

GOVERNMENT chauffeurs want a rise. Are tired of giving other people lifts.

THINGS SAID

ALTHOUGH the relationships between Britain and India are changing, they are not changing for the worse. We believe they are going to change for the better.

The Secretary of State for India

IN spite of our past history of conflict, we hope that independent India will have friendly and co-operative relations with Britain and the countries of the British Commonwealth.

Pandit Nehru

THE use of nuclear energy for the propulsion of high-powered ships now appears to be on the horizon, though perhaps somewhat distant.

The Chairman of the Shipbuilding Conference

PRIVATE flying is once more a practicable aim. It is developing like the motor car and the yacht into a convenient means of private travel.

Lord Winster, Minister of Civil Aviation

MY production slogan is: The goods produced must be the right goods, produced for the right purposes in the right places. *The Minister of Supply*

Off the Ration

THE disposal of American war stores is on a scale that staggers the imagination. We have just heard of one contractor who bought no fewer than 5540 Flying Fortresses for breaking up.

To make such a transaction even more fantastic, the department which sold the planes had overlooked the fact that petrol had been left in the tanks, and the surprised dealer found himself with 2,300,000 gallons of aviation spirit for which he had not paid.

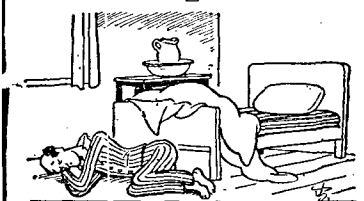
Petrol-starved British motorists will sigh and recall the incident of the man who was seen in a London street pouring a half-pint bottle of lighter-fuel into the tank of his car!

Editor's Table

SOME builders use war-damage licences to cover unnecessary work. Tarpaulin would be more effective.

THE company of a child is as good as a bottle of tonic, declares a writer. Even if some naughty ones ought to be well shaken.

A GOVERNMENT official says there is not likely to be a return to white bread. He was told to keep it dark.



A SEASIDE visitor complained that his mattress was hard. He got off to sleep.

Fit and Well

THE report on the nation's health during its war ordeal, made by the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, is encouraging reading. In the old times war nearly always brought pestilence in its train, but during our years of trial our health remained excellent.

This was to a great extent due, the report suggests, to our being able to maintain a high standard of nutrition. The report says that "nutrition is the very essence and basis of national health," and it goes on, "in spite of monotony, the irksome limitations imposed by rationing, the disappearance of some familiar and favourite forms of food, the nutritional state of the nation is, at least, not worse than at the beginning of the war, and... as regards children it indeed seems better."

Although we grumble at our dull food, the fact remains that the British nation as a whole has probably never been on such a healthy diet as during these years of strict rationing.

SQUATTERS

THE Cockney can usually be relied upon to make pertinent comment on current affairs.

The other evening we were on a bus in Piccadilly when it drew up at a crowded stopping-place.

"Come along," invited the conductor, "we must keep the bus filled or the squatters will move in."

A Child Asleep

FAIR was that face as break of dawn,

When o'er its beauty sleep was drawn

Like a thin veil which half concealed

The light of soul and half revealed.

While thy hushed heart with visions wrought

Each trembling eyelash moved with thought,

And things we dream, but ne'er can speak,

Like clouds come floating o'er thy cheek—

Such summer clouds as travel light

When the soul's heaven lies calm and bright—

Till thou awakest—then to thine eye

Thy whole heart leapt in ecstasy!

And lovely is that heart of thine, Or sure those eyes could never shine

With such a wild, yet bashful glee,

Gay, half-o'ercome timidity.

Christopher North

FATE OF NATIONS

THE nation and kingdom that will not serve Thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted.

Isaiah

JUST AN IDEA

As Sir Thomas Wyatt wrote, A spending hand that alway poureth out, hath need to have a bringer-in as fast.

International Football

THE first match in the International Tournament takes place on Saturday, when England meets Ireland on the Linfield Football Club ground at Windsor Park, Belfast. In the Victory Internationals last season Ireland surprised everybody with the strength of her team, and this season hopes to be a power in International football.

After this match the England team will go on to Eire, to play the first International match between the two countries. This is a very happy move between the Football Associations of England and Eire, and should lead to closer contact between them.

More and more overseas teams are trying to arrange tours here, like the Sparta Club, champions of Czechoslovakia, who during the first fortnight of October will meet Arsenal, Birmingham City, Derby County, Glasgow Rangers, and Hibernians. Iceland has also sent a team here to meet several of our leading amateur clubs.

Close-up



A young visitor to the Children's Corner at the London Zoo finds it difficult to focus her camera on the goat owing to the model's eagerness to get into the picture.

BURYING A HATCHET

A SPLENDID example of how nations, by turning to the spirit of good will, can settle disputes of long standing, has been given by the agreement made between Italy and Austria about the future of South Tirol, that province of many German-speaking people in the North of Italy which has been the subject of much bitter ill-feeling in the past.

It has been agreed that the province is to remain within the framework of Italy but that both Italian and German are to be official languages there and the important products of South Tirol, her wine and fruit, shall be exported cheaply and easily into Austria.

Signor de Gasperi, the Italian Prime Minister, said recently: "Italians and Germans of South Tirol must work together on a footing of equality.... Having a free minority may cost us a few sacrifices, but we make them as a contribution to the brotherhood of peoples and as an act of faith in a new international life."

His noble words will hearten those men and women everywhere who are striving to heal a sick world.

MASTER OF 28 LANGUAGES

IN the history of learning September 28 is a notable occasion. For on that day, just two centuries ago, was born Sir William Jones, one of the most gifted scholars of all time.

Although of Welsh blood, his father an eminent mathematician, Jones was born in London, where he was to mingle on terms of affectionate friendship with Johnson, Gibbon, Burke, and Reynolds. The man who first revealed the languages, literature, and laws of the East to the West was a great walker and an accomplished horseman, who danced, wielded rapier and broadsword, played the Welsh harp like a bard, and chess like a master.

Left fatherless at three, he was sent to Harrow at seven, where he remained for ten years, a marvellous boy who devoted his leisure to voluntarily learning French and Italian and the rudiments of Arabic and Hebrew. Proceeding at 17 to Oxford, he realised, as he said, that on the income of a peasant he was enjoying the education of a prince. To lighten the strain on his mother's resources he became tutor to a son of Lord Spencer, combining his duties with a fellowship at Oxford, to which he was appointed at the early age of 20. Travel abroad enlarged his knowledge.

While teaching, William Jones was ever a student, and added language to language as most of us add game to game. He made himself perfectly familiar with Greek, Latin, Italian, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Hebrew, Arabic, Persian, Turkish, and German, to which he later added proficiency in Sanskrit,



Chinese, Russian, Runic, Syrian, Ethiopic, Coptic, Dutch, Swedish, Welsh, as well as the great Indian languages and a number of native dialects. He was the only man of his era to prove himself master of 28 languages.

Becoming a barrister, he went to India as a judge, there to spend the last years of his life. A model of wisdom and justice, he deeply studied native laws and customs, and, so that native lawyers should not misrepresent their legal system, he began the immense task of reducing the laws of the land to a code whose authority could not be questioned.

Jones would pursue his tasks all day in Court, walk five miles home, labour at his literary work far into the night, rise at three, and reach his Court just as dawn broke. In spite of all his work he found leisure for social intercourse, and scholars, soldiers, and men of affairs, both Indian and British, all declared him one of the most delightful companions of his time, with whom prince, peasant, or child was equally happy and at ease. But he overtaxed his strength, so weakening his constitution that he was but 47 when he died.

Famous Indians wept for his loss, and a Governor of India wrote his biography. Reynolds had already painted his portrait, and his admirers raised statues to him in St Paul's Cathedral and at Oxford University.

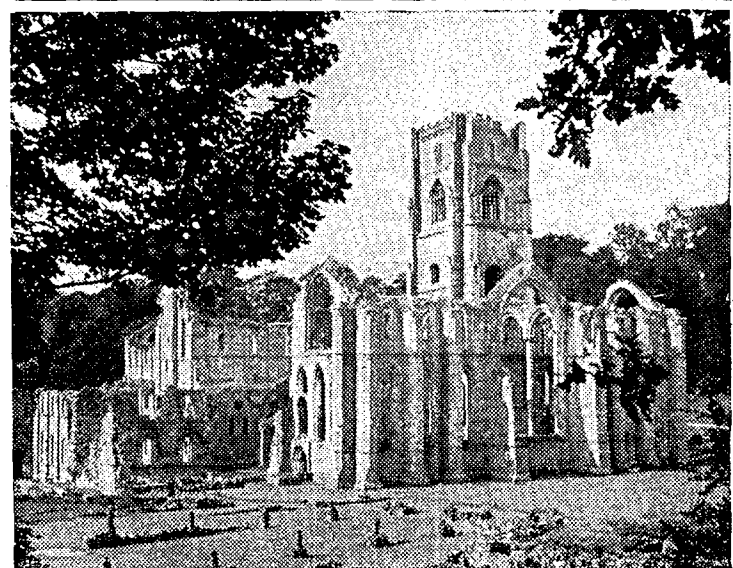
RAF Helps Civil Flying

ON-THE-SPOT information of signals facilities, weather forecasts, emergency landing grounds, and visual and radio aids to navigation, given by R A F navigators experienced in monsoon flying, is making an important contribution to the development of civil flying in the Far East.

Since the R A F opened the air routes after the Japanese surrender, help given by service flyers and wireless and meteorological experts has ensured that civil aircraft can operate trunk routes to and from Malaya in the maximum safety and comfort.

Every day an average of four airliners, BOAC and others, make use of R A F facilities at Singapore. A signals route book, prepared by a special branch of South East Asia Air Command, and containing frequencies, call signs, and characteristics of 19 special aids to navigation, is available to civil aircrews.

To ensure rapid diversion to emergency landing grounds in the case of a base becoming weather-bound, the R A F signals channels are organised to allow civil pilots continuous communication with ground-operated air-traffic control.



THIS ENGLAND

Fountains Abbey, Yorkshire, the lovely ruin it is proposed to restore

Salute to an Athlete

The close of a memorable season of athletics has brought the close of a memorable athletic career: Sydney Wooderson has run his last important race. His friend Jack Crump, the British Athletic Team Hon. Manager, here pays a tribute to the great little sportsman.

WOODERSON'S career has been phenomenal. He broke the Public Schools and Junior one-mile record, and at the early age of 20 represented this country in the Empire Games. Two years later he beat that redoubtable miler Jack Lovelock in the A.A.A. Championships, and in 1936 had the highest hopes of achieving the most cherished ambition of every athlete, an Olympic Games victory. Because of an ankle injury, however, he failed to qualify in his heat, and subsequent examination revealed a cracked bone, causing experts to marvel at his endurance in running under such a handicap.

The Record-Breaker

Complete recovery was followed by a new world's record for the one-mile and later by new world figures for 800 metres and 880 yards; and in 1938 Wooderson became European Champion at 1500 metres.

He appeared to be a certain winner for the 1940 Olympics, but war came, the Games, of course, were cancelled, and he joined the Auxiliary Fire Service. Later he enlisted in the R.E.M.E. and all his wartime running was for charity. Since big crowds were attracted every time he appeared on the running track, thousands of pounds were raised for deserving causes by his efforts.

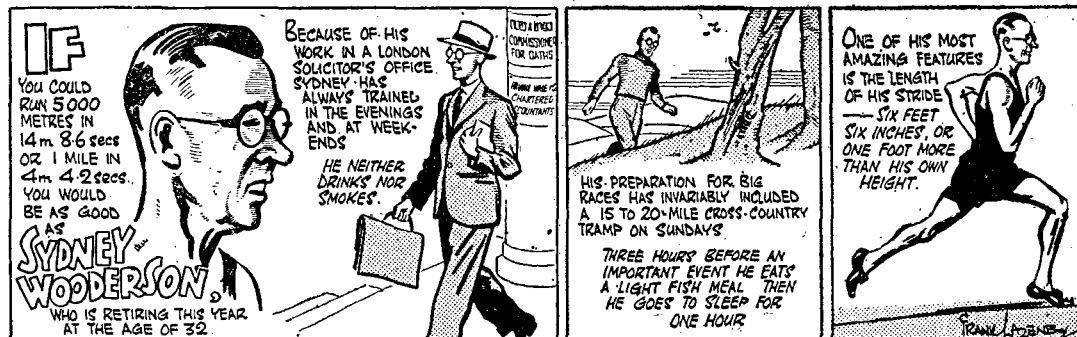
A rheumatic infection of the leg almost finished his career, but when war stopped Wooderson once more proved superior to physical disability and gained still further remarkable successes, his races against the powerful Swedish runner Arne Andersson

in 1945 being among the most thrilling ever witnessed.

Wooderson decided that 1946 must be his last season in important athletics, for his work as a solicitor prevents him from securing the necessary training. His thrilling success in the creation of a new British three-miles record, and his greatest race ever, in winning the 5000 metres at Oslo in the European Championships, made his last season his most triumphant despite the tragedy of his very last big race, when at Mottspur Park in Surrey a strained achilles tendon prevented him from setting up a new British two-mile record.

So much for Wooderson's racing history. But his world-wide popularity rests not merely on his great prowess. His slight figure—he weighs only about nine stone—his extreme modesty and shyness, and his great attachment to his club, have created unbounded affection and admiration for him among his fellow sportsmen. He has been a shining example of the true amateur, a loyal club man and a worthy champion.

It is typical of Sydney Wooderson that he is now to devote his available time to passing on to the younger generation the benefit of his experience and knowledge. If he can teach our young runners how to acquire his uncanny judgment of pace, British athletics will owe a further debt to the little 32-year-old Blackheath Harrier with a frail body and the heart of a lion—the finest runner that Britain has ever produced.



Cormorants Should Not Be Eaten

It is sad to think that in the North of Scotland men should find it more profitable to shoot and sell cormorants and shags than to catch fish. The birds have been sold at from five shillings to six shillings each, to be used in restaurants.

The flesh of cormorants is dark and fishy-tasting and generally considered uneatable, though Lapps and Arabs are said to fancy it. Much misdirected ingenuity on the part of a cook must be necessary to disguise the nasty stuff so that diners will relish it.

Perhaps it appears alluringly on the menu under its Greek family name of Phalacrocorax, though if diners can translate the Greek they are hardly likely to be allured by "bald-headed raven."

Streamlined Grace

Two kinds of cormorants are usually found round our coasts, the big black cormorant which is three feet long from the tip of his beak to the end of his tail, and the smaller green shag. Cormorants are notoriously greedy, and they often eat till they make themselves sick. Their young, too, have inelegant feeding habits, thrusting their heads far down their parents' throats to extract fish. Indeed, everything about these birds, when they are out of the water, is inelegant, but when pursuing fish under-water they are wonders of streamlined grace and speed.

The cormorant is an intelligent bird and can become a faithful pet. From time immemorial in China and Japan it has been trained to fish for a master. At first a ring is put round its throat to prevent it swallowing the fish, but it can be trained to bring fish to its master freely, just like a dog retrieving game. In the 17th century the sport was popular in England and there was actually a Master of the Cormorant attached to the royal household.

The cormorant may have its uses but not as a table bird.

Building Half a Ship

"HALF a ship is better than no ship" is probably what dockyard workers say when they are going through a slack time.

Devonport Dockyard is to build only half of a 13,000-ton merchantman under the Admiralty scheme to keep the Royal Dockyards employed. When the Devonport shipbuilders have finished their half, the fore part of the ship, it will be towed round the coast to be joined to the other half, the after part, which is at present lying on a beach in South Wales. The original ship was mined during the war.

MUSIC FOR THE FILMS

IN the days when our parents used to have their fill of sighs and thrills at the cinema, music played a small part; it was a neglected art, a pit Cinderella. A hidden pianist thumped or tinkled alternately as the flickering scenes changed on the silent screen almost directly overhead.

Down in his hiding-place the pianist revelled in three moods, expressed by three familiar tunes. Thus, if Mary Pickford's heart was being broken Hearts and Flowers was the inevitable accompaniment; for romantic settings, Rustle of Spring tinkled a charming commentary; if the heroine were being rescued at the eleventh hour, Light Cavalry Overture helped to increase the audience's suspense.

But that was all long ago. Orchestras began to take the place of the piano; and then came massive and ingenious organs with innumerable effects. Later, as the 1920's marched towards talking pictures, special orchestrations were devised.

Musical scores became more and more subtle in matching film plots. Film music was growing up, and with the coming of sound films more and more musical ingenuity was demanded; for audiences, too, were growing up.

Today, Paramount, one of the leading film companies, has a music library stocked with standard sheet music dating from 1833 to 1946, of which there are over 10,000 pieces, 15,000 printed stock orchestrations made by members of the staff, and 1600 books of international sheet music, each containing about 1000 compositions.

In addition to all this, the library files contain approximately 30,000 original orchestrations which have all been used as background music for various pictures.

Music for movies has certainly made great strides since those days when the lone pianist did his utmost to blend his art with that of the flickering screen.

Health on the Hoof

THE importance of veterinary science is receiving ever-increasing recognition, and certainly the department of animal health is appreciated at its full value by the farmer of the Gold Coast. On a livestock farm near Accra everything is being done to help the cattle farmer to rear and improve his stock.

Cattle are most susceptible to disease, and the West African shorthorn fall an easy prey to rinderpest (or cattle plague). At one time almost half of every herd was lost every few years. The hard-hit farmer then imported Zebu bulls from Nigeria and the Sudan, but these animals were not always of first quality and some bulls had a tendency to another scourge of cattle—pleuro-pneumonia.

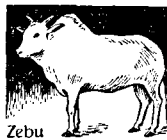
To combat these problems, the white Fulani cattle are reared, and the bulls are sold at 18 months to the farmers for a nominal sum of £10. The Govern-

ment sends an inspector to see that the bulls are not neglected; if they are the animals are taken away, cleansed, and sold to another owner, for there is a long waiting list of purchasers.

The white Fulani type of Zebu is magnificent; he matures more rapidly and is of much greater size than the cattle of the plains, and the aim of the farmer is to incorporate these qualities with the best of the original stock.

Up-to-date devices are incorporated in the farm buildings. The milking byre has tubular stall-fittings, and the building can be made flyproof if necessary. Other buildings include disease-isolating loose boxes, concrete seed stalls and grain silos (affording protection from those two great evils, rats and damp), and special pens for the bulls, designed in such a way that the herdsman can feed and water the animals from outside.

The livestock farm is occupied also with further research into cattle disease and with the cultivation of crops by modern mixed farming methods.



Zebu

BEDTIME CORNER

A BRIGHT IDEA

WHEN Grandfather Rat Wants to tie his cravat And there isn't a mirror, he soon Finds a way out of that—He's a clever old rat!—He uses the back of a spoon!

Bobby's New Drum

LITTLE Bobby had a new drum. Mother said, "Have your midday rest first, then you shall play with it."

But when rest time came, Bobby was on the steep slope behind the house, playing with his drum. "Come down at once!" Mother called.

"I won't!" said Bobby angrily, and he hit his drum so hard that it went off bang. "Now you have broken it,

you naughty boy!" cried mother.

"Stupid thing!" shouted Bobby, and he gave it a big kick. Over it went down the slope, and over and over went Bobby, too—bump, bump, right down to the bottom.

He received a big, painful lump on his nose, and wished he had not been so naughty.

The disobedient hurt themselves most.

Evening Prayer

O! THOU whose captain I account myself,
To Thee I do commend my watchful soul,
Ere I let fall the windows of mine eyes:
Sleeping and waking, O! defend me still. SHAKESPEARE

HURRYING TO MEET DADDY



BRITAIN DRESSES HER SHOP WINDOW

THE Britain Can Make It Exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, is a revelation to the world of the wide range of articles the scientists, craftsmen, and workers of our little island can produce, articles which people all over the world will desire.

The Exhibition is a window display for the world's shoppers, and it is delightfully arranged. Thus the new designs in travel goods are shown on a railway platform against a background of a steep, jumbled old English town. Opposite is the inside of an airliner with samples of light-weight air-travel suitcases and bags.

Visitors' eyes will widen—and young people's hearts will quicken with enthusiasm—at what is being done by the British toy-making industry. An engineering firm which made aircraft components has switched over part of its plant to the mass production of precision-engineered toys. There are models of everyday machinery like gantry cranes and drop hammers that can be taken to pieces and re-assembled with the combination tools supplied. There are electrical sets to enable a boy to wire up his sister's dolls' house; toy mangles which work as well as mother's; model planes fitted with engines working on a petrol substitute mixture.

Fascinating, too, are the school exhibits. There is an example of the new type of secondary

schoolroom, its yellow plywood ceiling with tubes for fluorescent lighting. The "black" board is yellow, and blue chalk is used. This makes reading easier and has a more restful effect on the eyes than white on black. Tubular steel desks in this schoolroom have book racks and elbow rests.

The model nursery school shown at the Exhibition has cork flooring, and chairs and tables of suitable sizes. There is a glorious "water-play" part of the room where the tinies practise washing-up. This has a tiled floor, and a sink just 17 inches high. A water-play table containing seven inches of water has a rim to prevent the water splashing over the players' clothes.

Glass Tablecloths

Many are the original products of British workmanship at the Exhibition. Rubber chairs which can be inflated for picnics, damask fibre-glass tablecloths, saucepans with heat-resisting finger-grips to prevent slipping, a kitchen gadget which combines child's high chair, household steps, and ironing board. In the radio section is the lightest and most efficient portable wireless set yet produced. It is carried by a sling from the shoulder like a camera or binoculars; the aerial is in the shoulder strap.

Many exhibits show how ingeniously our manufacturers have used for peacetime purposes the knowledge they gained in making weapons of war. For example, during the war British manufacturers began making precision clockwork for our defence needs; now they have turned the experience thus gained to the mass production of clocks and watches. The process, learned in the war, of using bonded plywood for making the famous Mosquito aircraft is now being used to manufacture such goods as furniture and boats.

Our old wool industry shows some of its latest products at the Exhibition. In former times wool fabric could not be woven into very fine yarn, but today, by means of a soluble yarn made from seaweed it can be woven into a fabric so light that it weighs only one ounce per square yard.

These are only a few of the Exhibition's wonders, all of which show the vast range of goods which British industry, turned now from war to peace production, is making for sale to all the world.

SICK STATUES

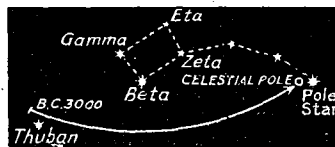
MANY statues in Paris have been getting "ill," and a committee of scientists has been appointed to find a chemical which will render statues immune from what is called stone disease. Statues which are exposed to wind and rain, factory smoke and petrol fumes, are specially liable to contract the disease, which consists of a sort of growth starting inside the statues and spreading outwards, making cracks in the stone and splitting noses and fingers.

Wanderings of the Celestial Pole

By the C.N. Astronomer

THE Pole Star, Polaris, should be easily identified because it always appears in almost the same place in the sky, but since all the stars in the northern region appear to revolve round it, some knowledge of the relative positions of these other stars is desirable, though they appear at a considerable distance from it.

This solitary Pole Star is of second magnitude and known to astronomers as Alpha Ursa Minoris, being situated at the tip of the very long and unnatural Tail of the Little Bear, Ursa Minor, whose chief stars may be readily recognised from the accompanying star-map. At the present time they appear of an evening at about nine o'clock at the angle shown in the star-map, for the stars of Ursa Minor appear to travel



round the Celestial Pole, even Polaris making an imperceptible circle close to the precise point. Thus the fanciful representation of the Little Bear is presented as being swung round by the Tail.

The four stars Beta, Gamma, Eta, and Zeta form the body of this imaginary Bear, so there is a slight resemblance to that part of the Great Bear, commonly called the Plough, except that the stars Eta and Zeta are relatively faint and none are bright except the Pole Star, Beta, and Gamma. The two latter thus help observers to identify the Pole Star. There is, however, the better method of drawing an imaginary line from Beta to Alpha of the Plough and continuing it until it passes near to a star of similar brightness, which is Polaris.

Changes in 5000 Years

What is of particular interest is that Polaris, the present Pole Star, has not always been in this position relative to the Celestial Pole, the point in the Heavens to which the Earth's Axis is directed. Owing to the latter's continual change of tilt, this Celestial Pole, or point, has changed during the last 5000 years from the position shown on the star-map. Then the Celestial Pole appeared close to the star Thuban, also known as Alpha Draconis, the first star in the constellation of the Dragon. In those days the stars forming the Little Bear are considered to have provided the Dragon's Wings.

The Little Bear appears to have been composed about 3000 years ago by the Phoenicians. Then the star Beta was the nearest bright one to the Celestial North Pole, so the Little Bear instead of swinging round by the Tail, as at present, would have appeared to run round the Pole. This can be seen from the star-map; the curve is only part of the great circle along which the Celestial Pole seems to have travelled in the course of 25,867 years.

Therefore the change of the Earth's tilt makes all the difference to man's view of the Heavens through the ages.

G. F. M.

THE IMPUDENT STARLING

STARLINGS are with us all the year round, but it is from autumn onwards that these cheerful, bustling scavengers of town and country chiefly claim attention. Then they are particularly in evidence as dusk approaches, when they congregate in dense, noisy flocks at their favourite roosting-place.

Throughout the summer the starlings have been concerned only with rearing several broods of young, but now, with time to spare, they gather on the roof-tops and whistle lively, if somewhat tuneless songs. Their ability to mimic the notes of other birds has sometimes deceived even experienced bird-watchers into thinking a plover is flying over, or a song-thrush is singing nearby. Starlings copy not only bird song, but take a mischievous delight in imitating sounds such as a human sneeze or a schoolboy's whistle.

Their favourite times for song are early morning and evening. During the day companies of them hurry round the countryside, prying here, there, and everywhere for food. If one starling discovers a meal, its comrades are not long in flying down to share it. Nothing edible is ignored by these ever-hungry vagabonds.

Although starlings do some damage to fruit and grain crops, this failing is outweighed by their usefulness in other directions. Rubbish heaps are scoured for scraps which might otherwise breed flies and disease, while innumerable harmful insects are also eaten.

Young starlings early acquire sociable habits. Those born in the spring are moving about in large flocks by the end of June, quartering the fields as rapidly



Starling

and efficiently as the adults. Later, old and young join forces, and in the autumn their combined ranks are still further swollen by migrants from colder regions. The plumage of the young birds is greyish-brown, without the speckling or metallic sheen of the older starlings.

Whatever a starling does it is with tremendous energy. Whether whistling from the chimney-pots, raiding fruit trees, or foraging for insects in the fields, it maintains a tireless enthusiasm for everything. During autumn and winter its evening flight becomes a spirited aerial display as, with thousands of its kind, it nears the communal roosting-place.

Vast flocks of starlings converge from all directions and form into one huge cloud above the chosen wood. Together they dive and swoop up again, twisting and turning as though animated by a single thought. Finally, they descend in a body.

Their chattering and squabbling continues until after sunset as the birds jostle for the best perches. During the night the starlings never become quite silent, and "babel breaks" out anew if an unusual noise disturbs them.

Whatever its faults, the starling is a likeable fellow, with its impudent, swaggering ways. No matter how hard the weather, it seems to get the utmost from its energetic life.



It's

OXO



PREPARED FROM PRIME RICH BEEF

Genuine Ex-Railway Tarpaulins

70 sq. ft. 15/-, including carriage, GUARANTEE GOOD CONDITION, worth 35/-; 2 for 29/6, 4 for 57/6. Limited stocks. Extra large size, 280 sq. ft., £4; 140 sq. ft., £2. Carr. free. 50 sq. ft. 6/-, carr. 2/-.

HEADQUARTER & GENERAL SUPPLIES LTD., Dept. CH/T/1, Excel House, Excel Court, Whitcomb Street, Leicester Square, London, W.C.2.

Make the most of each loaf

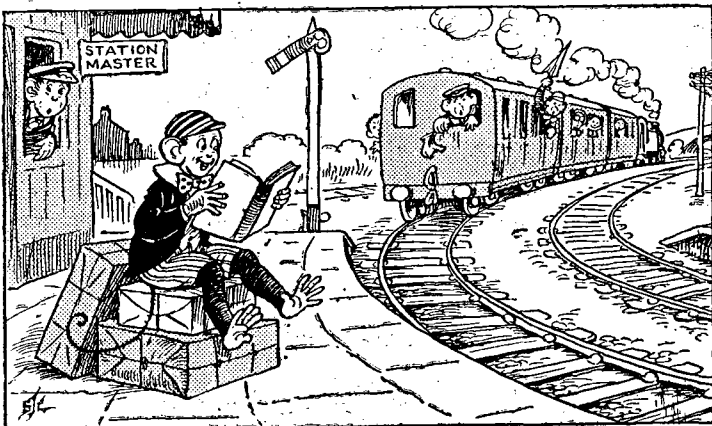
Hovis

for HEALTH AND VIGOUR

BEST BAKERS BAKE IT

Makes/1946

Jacko's Book is Too Thrilling



JACKO had been to town shopping and, among other things, had bought an exciting story book. As he sat on his numerous parcels, waiting for his train home, he became so completely absorbed in reading his book that he did not notice the train come and go. Passengers who knew he ought to catch this train shouted at him, but he was far away in adventureland.

A NEW INDUSTRY

LITTLE Peter, who had never been in the country before, was fascinated by the blacksmith's shop.

"Please bring me back here again this afternoon," he begged his uncle with whom he was staying. "I want to see the man making a whole horse, not just nailing his feet on."

Maxim to Memorise

AN unwise word is more dangerous than a false step.



Mummy
knows what
helps my
tummy!"

**'MILK OF
MAGNESIA'**

Regd. Trade Mark

A PROVEN PRODUCT OF THE
CHAS. H. PHILLIPS CHEMICAL CO., LTD.

The BRAN TUB

Cross Wise

Put three pennies down on the table and ask a friend to make a cross with them.

He will probably juggle them around a while and give up. Then pick up the three coins and with them draw an imaginary cross on the table. Your friend is then likely to be a different kind of cross!

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

A Handsome Caterpillar. Bending to pick a spray of blackberries, Don paused in astonishment. On the grass was a caterpillar; it was quite three inches long, and its stout, bright green body was rendered more attractive by the addition of several rows of pinkish-coloured warts. "It was the caterpillar of an emperor moth," said Farmer Gray, hearing of the huge creature.

"They are noted for their striking appearance. The caterpillars are more common than the moths because many die before pupation. It is not such a conservative feeder as many species—heather, bramble, sloe, willow, and meadowsweet all being included in its diet."

PUZZLE LIMERICK

A PROFESSOR of Nature called Tuck,
Who liked to write of wild duck,
Would, early and late,
Out with pencil and
To note the habits—with tuck!

What words, made up of the same five letters differently arranged, fill these four gaps?

Answer next week

Other Worlds

IN the morning Saturn is low in the east. The picture shows the Moon as it may be seen at 7.30 on the evening of Sunday, September 29.



The Children's Hour

BBC programmes from Wednesday, September 25, to Tuesday, October 1.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 We Didn't Mean to Fly—a story by Joyce Baker. 5.20 The Mystery of Moulton's Farm—first of a new series of plays about the Boy Detectives. Scottish, 5.0 When the Sea Froze—a story from Denmark.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Another "Proud Peru" story; The Black Abbot (Part 6). Welsh, 5.30 Harvest Home—a harvesting custom; Sports Roundabout.

FRIDAY, 5.0 The Lute Player, by Mollie Greenhalgh, based on a Russian Folk Tale.

SATURDAY, 5.0 The Most Precious Thing; The Speed Demon; Around the Countryside. Northern Ireland, 5.0 Beginners Please (No 3); Inter-town Knowledge Quiz; Muriel Child (songs).

SUNDAY, 5.0 Back from the Holidays—verse and music. 5.30 Kirkintilloch Junior Choir.

MONDAY, 5.0 Winnie the Pooh, by A. A. Milne. 5.25 Results of the Painting Competition. 5.40 News from the Zoo, by Dr Geoffrey Vevers. Midland, 5.25 Music of the Insects. Scottish, 5.0 Highland Diary; piano music; The Toffee Touch—a story; Janette Sclanders (songs).

TUESDAY, 5.0 Willie Joss reads Tammy Toot's Trip to the Moon; Down at the Mains. Midland, 5.0 We Couldn't Leave Dinah (Part 6); Jack Wilson and his Versatile Five; Keeping the Wheels Oiled—a talk about bicycles. Northern Ireland, 5.0 Looking Forward; Beginners Please (No 4); I Want to be an Actor; Gramophone Records chosen by children in Hospital.

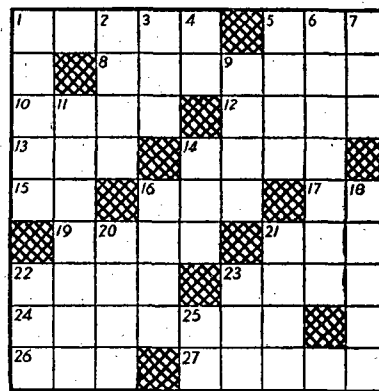
Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 To gather "ears" left by harvesters. 5 Proper. 8 Achieves. 10 Ventilates. 12 Want. 13 Hostelry. 14 Occasion of public festivity. 15 Nova Scotia. 16 Passenger vehicle. 17 Near. 19 Neat. 21 Compass point. 22 Food. 23 Settles an account. 24 Agrees to terms. 26 Private. 27 Made of oats.

Reading Down. 1 Cereal fruit. 2 To merit by service. 3 Girl in khaki. 4 New Testament. 5 Clock face. 6 Weird. 7 This flows into Solway Firth. 9 Exclamation of sorrow. 11 Examine. 14 Sticky substance. 16 To cut with the teeth. 18 For the fiddler's bow. 20 Speed competition. 21 Where the sun rises. 22 Plan of a country. 23 Leguminous plant. 25 Accomplish.

Asterisks indicate abbreviations. Answer next week

The Children's Newspaper, September 28, 1946



A Near Thing

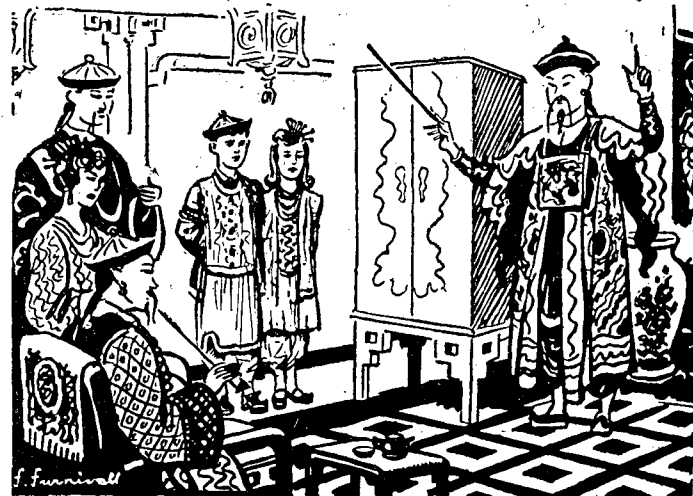
"As I paused to pick up my rifle," said the lecturer, "the lion came so close I could feel his breath on the back of my neck. What did I do?"

Voice: "Turned your collar up!"

A STICKY DIET

A MONKEY named Mizzy Maroo Fell in love with a potful of glue; He swallowed it quick, And observed: "I shall stick To this diet, whatever they do."

The Three Mustardeers Bring New Magic to ANCIENT CHINA



"LOOK OUT!" yelled Roger. As the Mustardeers ducked, a score of arrows hissed above their heads. "Gosh!" gasped Mary. "Where are we?" "Ancient China, I suppose," Jim muttered. "That's where we wished the magic stone to take us," Roger felt his pocket where he still nursed the wish-granting stone of Kassim which Mary's uncle, ignorant of its powers, had given them. "Seems to me," exclaimed Mary, "we've landed on a battlefield." From over the hill, savage warriors were bearing down in their direction. "Quick!" cried Jim to Roger, "wish us home again!" But it was too late. Already a vanguard was upon them. In an instant they were seized, bound and marched away, captives. Not till an hour later, as they passed the Royal Palace, did help come. There, in the Palace, Yen Tsu, the Royal Conjuror, and Master of Entertainments, was having trouble of his own. Expecting the Prince to be at war at least another day, he thought his own services would not be required till tomorrow. And being a kindly man, he had given his boy assistant the day off. Now a royal banquet had been called for. He'd have to give a gala entertainment—but without his boy assistant he was lost. Suddenly, as he gazed from a Palace window, Yen Tsu saw the Mustardeers among the captives. "Yes, yes," he mumbled into his long grey beard, "just the right build. I wonder now. And as fast as his aged legs could carry him he tore into the street and arranged for the Mustardeers to be sent in to assist him. First in the entertainment came the dancers and tumblers, and presently Yen Tsu made his entrance with a low bow. Brawny assistants carried on

the apparatus for his first trick—the Chinese vanishing trick. Yen Tsu would show a small cupboard empty. Then after bowing his assistant inside, he would close the door, rap on it with his wand, and opening the door again, he would display the cupboard empty and his assistant vanished. All would have gone smoothly if the cafeless men had not brought on the wrong cupboard—one without the false back which made the trick possible. Only when Roger, as the new assistant, freed from his bonds, had stepped inside, did poor Yen Tsu realise the mistake. Panic seized him. The trick couldn't work. Disgrace—and at his venerable age! Now he had to rap with his wand, and now open the door. He hesitated, not daring. Then, driven by the Prince's impatient glance, he flung open the door. Wonder of wonders, the assistant had vanished. Roger had not wasted time. Inside the cupboard he pulled the Stone of Kassim from his pocket and in a flash he'd wished the Mustardeers safely home again for supper. Even as Yen Tsu heaved his sigh of relief—believing for once in Chinese magic—Roger, Mary and Jim were already at table. "Yum!" exclaimed Roger, "I'm hungry as a lion." "You mean Chinese dragon," chipped in Jim with a wink, "—pass the mustard, please."



Colman's Mustard